AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [0051] with the following amended paragraph:

[0051] The first amino acid sequence is derived from all or a portion of the ActRIIB extracellular domain and is capable of binding GDF-8 specifically. In some embodiments, such a portion of the ActRIIB extracellular domain may also bind BMP-11 and/or activin, or other growth factors. In certain embodiments, the first amino acid sequence is identical to or is substantially as set out in SEQ ID NO:3 from about amino acid (aa) 23 to about aa 138 or from about aa 19 to about aa 134 ~~144~~ in SEQ ID NO:1. The difference between SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3 is that aa 64 of SEQ ID NO:1 is Ala, whereas the corresponding aa 68 in SEQ ID NO:3 is Arg. Additionally, other variances in the sequence of ActRIIB are possible, for example, aa 16 and aa 17 in SEQ ID NO:1 can be substituted with Cys and Ala, respectively. In some other embodiments, the first amino acid sequence comprises at least 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, or 120 contiguous amino acids from about aa 23 and about aa 138 of SEQ ID NO:3 or about aa 19 and about aa 134 ~~144~~ of SEQ ID NO:1. Such a sequence can be truncated so long as the truncated sequence is capable of specifically binding GDF-8. Binding to GDF-8 can be assayed using methods known in the art or as described in Examples 5 and 6.

Please replace paragraph [0060] with the following amended paragraph:

[0060] The present disclosure provides an isolated nucleic acid encoding a soluble ActRIIB that can be utilized in the methods of the present invention. The nucleic

acid of the invention comprises a coding sequence for at least one ActRIIB fusion polypeptide of the invention as described herein. In certain embodiments, the nucleic acid comprises the sequence, or is derived from the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4. In certain other embodiments, the nucleic acid sequence such that it encodes amino acids sequences from about aa 23 and about aa 138 of SEQ ID NO:3 or from about aa 19 and about aa 134 ~~444~~ of SEQ ID NO:1.